

19 September 1947

9:40 a.m. Gen Eaker in to see Gen Van

10:00 Meeting - Air Materiel Briefing - Generals Rawlings, Twining, Powers, LeMay, McKee, McDonald, Spaatz, Mr. Symington.

12:30 p.m. Lunch in Mr. Symington's office.

2:00 Meeting in Mr. Royall's office.

3:00 Col Jake Smart re writing letter to Mr. Dwight Sullivan.

3:30 Mr. Hunter & Lt. Col. Blackstone for Air Judge Advocate's office re income tax.

4:05 Gen McDonald

5:15 Home

22 Sep '47

8:15 a.m. Arrived

8:20 Gen McKee

8:40 Gen Norstad on phone re organizational chart. Gen Norstad will come down at 9:00 to see Gen Van.

9:00 Gen Edwards & LeMay, Norstad & Gardner.

10:15 Gen Tom Campbell

10:30 To Secretary Symington-Presentation on Personnel - Gen Edwards.

12:10 p.m. Gen Cannon called from Shreveport, La. re damage to Boca Raton & Keesler Fld. He informed Gen Van that Boca Raton is damaged quite a bit, probably between 4 or 5 million dollars worth of damage. The damage at Keesler is quite bad but we are not hurt. There have been no airplanes damaged at Keesler at all. Gen Cannon said they intend to move the fundamentals out of Boca just as soon as possible. Gen McKee got on phone and asked Gen Cannon what the Air Forces was doing to help. He said the Secy of War got a report that Gen Anderson was doing nothing. Gen Cannon said that was false, that the civilians were doing nothing and we were doing most of the straightening up. Gen Cannon called on the Mayor at Biloxi personally and the Mayor was delighted with our job. Gen Cannon also discussed erecting recreation facilities for the colored troops down there as there has been an influx of them.

12:20 Gen Norstad on phone (Gen McKee spoke)

12:25 To lunch.

1:20 Returned.

1:20 Gen Spaatz

2:15 Gen Rawlings & Colonel White

2:20 Cong Rivers on phone re budget. (See following page for details) **

3:07 Col Blate fr Hamilton Fld on a private matter.

3:10 Gen Stratemeyer on phone. Gen Van said the only people who would satisfy Gen Spaatz, Mr. Symington etc. was Gen Stratemeyer's chief. Gen Van said they felt he was the only one in the Air Force that had the necessary qualifications. Gen Van told him he could pick anyone he wished from the Air Forces.

22 Sep '47 (Cont'd)

(re Membership of Joint Strategic Survey Cty)

4:00 p.m. Gen Sam Anderson on phone. He said Gen Grunther talked to him about membership & proposes to leave it as is for the time being, that is, two Navy, one Army and one Air. Gen Anderson said he felt it was his own opinion that we should have 3 down here instead of 4 or 6. But Gen Grunther said for time being he proposes to leave it as it is. Gen Van asked Gen Anderson to write him a brief memo on this subject.

4:30 Gen Stratemeyer on phone with his list to replace Chuck Stone. List was as follows: 1. Robert Harper, 2. Gen Streett, 3. Gen Ubank, 4. Gen Schlatter. Gen Stone's new job will be Deputy Commander for Supply & Maintenance. Gen Van said they wanted to make change as soon as possible. Gen Strat would like to get out of being President of Colonel's Board due to all of this. Gen Van said he would let him know.

5:30 Home

2:20 a.m. Congressman Rivers (S. Car) wanted the figure Gen Van thought we needed for 70 Groups. Gen Van said that a minimum of 70 Groups is needed and it will take approx. 400,000 men and about 150 to 160 thousand civilians. (Just for USAF). Cong Rivers wanted to know if the 400,000 included the women officers. Gen Van informed him we had no WACS at present time. Gen Van said that we would have to get authorization from Congress for the WACS to be in the USAF. Cong Rivers wanted to know how many women we think we'll need. Gen Van said they would replace some of the 400,000 men. Cong Rivers will put approximately 400,000. Cong Rivers is strong for REsearch. He wanted to know what the thought on Air Research was for us. Gen Van said we asked for 145 million in '48 and we got it. Cong Rivers mentioned the bill before his Committee (4035) to facilitate the performance of research and development work for War & Navy Depts. Cong Rivers noticed one provision in the bill where it said we had to commit ourselves for one year on a contract. He said he didn't think we should commit ourselves one bit because we may start out on something that turns out to be all poppycock and we ought to stop and put that money on something else. Gen Van thinks 5 years is the minimum length of time that we ought to spend it. Cong Rivers said there ought to be a provision in the bill that would permit us to terminate a contract on a moments notice & put out that money to something else that we think would be better. Cong Rivers said the Republicans did sort of knock them down on this sort of thing. Cong Rivers said he was going to do everything he could to see that we got a good Air Force. Cong Rivers asked Gen Van if he knew anything on the Russians research. Gen Van said we have some pretty good suspicions that we have gotten by piecing little bits together. Cong Rivers wants to know what Gen Van can tell him ~~that~~ what he can use on his own authority without quoting anybody. Gen Van said he thought that he could write on his own that they have a very fine project in jet aircraft and that they captured the German guided missile installations Peenemunde intact. Cong Rivers wanted to know if he could say anything about our Reserve Groups. Gen Van said they are very important. Gen Van said we figured on 27 NG Groups and about 30 Reserve Groups.

23 September 1947

8:15 a.m. Arrived of fice.

8:20 Gen McKee, Gen LeMay

9:15 Gen Norstad

10:05 Col Weber, Finance.
To Gen Spaatz

11:45 Gen McKee & Mr. Leo

1:45 p.m. Lunch - Gen McKee w/Mr. Graham-Editor of Wash. Post.

2:30- Returned

2:35 Gen Kissner

2:40 Mr. Symington

3:20 Air Marshal Goddard

4:40 Gen Whitten on phone re solid fuel plant. (Glenn L. Martin) Gen Whitten is going to check on \$300,000. plant contract with Martin Co.

4:35 Gen Whitten on phone (called back re above). Gen Whitten advised this is entirely a QM project, the contract having been let by the Quarter-master.

5:40 Home

24 Sep '47

8:15 a.m. Gen Edwards, McKee
9:45 Col Towle on phone re engagement for lunch.
10:00 Budget Briefing
12:15 p.m. Returned
12:20 Lunch w/Col Towle at Occidental
1:50 Returned
2:00 Gen McKee
2:30 Gen Edwards
Gen Partridge & Weyland
4:45 Gen Kissner on phone re ltr Mr. Royall is writing for Mr. Lovett.
" " informed Gen Van that Gen Norstad & Sherman have changed
one sentence so that it will have a lesser commitment. Gen Van said
OK.
4:47 Mr. Burdett Wright & Guy Vaughan
5:30 Mr. Leo

25 September 1947

8:00 a.m. Arrived

9:10 Budget Meeting w/Gen Edwards

10:15 Returned

11:00 Gen Coupland

11:25 Gen Knerr

11:35 Gen McKee

11:40 Gen Ritchie

12:20 p.m. Col Carter Clarke (Personal)

1:05 Returned from lunch..with Gen Norstad.

1:45 Gen Harper & Gen McKee re DC-6's.

1:50 Mr. Zuckert re above subject.

2:00 Mr. Leo re press releases * see following page.

2:20 Col Sigourney as to whether or not Bob Evens would pass the board for regular commission--looks like he will.

2:25 Col Montgomery (tentative appointment for Gen Spaatz, Mr. Symington & Gen Van) for Monday 11 a.m. to view constallation DC-6. Col Montgomery to confirm this later.

2:45 Gen Lyon on phone re list of names submitted to Secy of War. Gen Spaatz to sign certificate.

2:50 Mr. Paul McKee is going to Manila and said he needs an invitation from Gen Van in order to ride ATC. He has written a letter telling where he is going, how long etc. Major Paul Gaynor has this letter. Gen Van will look into it from this end and let Mr. McKee know.

* 2:51 Gen McKee

3:15 p.m. Col Herbet L. Grills, Base Cmdr on phone. Gen Van said we ought to help as much as we can. He said Sen Eastland is apparently very unhappy at the Air Force participation down there. Gen Van told Grills to call Sen Eastland who lives in Biloxi and tell him that Gen Van heard that he was unhappy and we wanted to know what we could do to make him happy. Gen Van said he thought Grills should do anything possible to help them get running again, outside of rebuilding the town.

3:30 Gen Cannon on phone. Gen Van told him that Gen Norstad got another call from Sen Eastland in Biloxi, Miss. He is unhappy re Air Force participation in rebuilding of destroyed property due to the hurricane. Gen Cannon said he would see if he could get hold of Sen Eastland. Gen Cannon said the Mayor of Biloxi was pleased with everything we had done.

3:00 p.m.
Gen Ritchie w/Swiss Air Force Generals & delegation.

25 September 1947 (Cont'd)

3:35 p.m. Admiral Sherman on phone. Gen Van told him we want to get Gen Howard Craig back from Alaska and we wanted to know if he would have any objection to having Gen Twining taking that over. Gen Sherman said he was quite sure that he wouldn't object. He said he would clear it with Admiral Nimitz and he thought the Admiral would agree. He is going to speak to Admiral Nimitz and let Gen Van know.

4:00 Mr. Boutelle on phone. Will call back tomorrow.

4:05 Mr. John Killick - Armed Forces Magazine

5:00 Mr. Leo on phone re trip to Europe for Mr. Paul McGee (newspaper man) to enable him to write article.

5:30 Home

26 Sept '47

8:00 a.m. Arrived

8:35 Gen Gruenther on phone re Gen Cabell (A-5 Ext. 71127) to Joint Chiefs. Gen Gruenther would like to see Gen Cabell. Gen Van will send him down. 2E 242

8:40 Gen Cabell on phone. Gen Van told him he had been picked for the Joint Chiefs. Gen Van told him to go see Gen Gruenther.

12:10 p.m. Mr. Christie on phone re trip this afternoon. Gen Van will call him back at three this afternoon and let him know.

12:30 Mr. C. V. Whitney, Ass't Secretary Air.

1:30 Returned

2:15 To swearing in of Secretaries.

3:00 Uniform Demonstration

3:35 Mr. Boutelle

3:40 Secretary C. V. Whitney

3:50 Admiral Sherman on phone re clearing.

3:52 Gen Guy V. Henry

3:55 Gen Edwards & McKee

4:05 To Telecon conference with Gen McKee & Edwards.

4:25 Sen Lister Hill's office called and in the absence of Gen Van, Miss Cox asked Gen Edwards if he would see Sen Hill's client a Mr. K. E. Gross, President of the Birmingham Chapter of the Air Reserve. Mr. Gross will be in town on Oct. 2nd or 3rd and Sen. Hill's office or Mr. Gross will call when he arrives, for a definite appointment with Gen Edwards. This is in reference to Mr. Gross's return to active duty. Gen Edwards Secretary advised of the above. (Capt. Kenneth E. Gross O-760831) pilot.

4:40 Returned from Telecon Conference.

5:10 Mr. Christie on phone.

5:30 Home

29 September 1947

8:00 a.m. Arrived
8:40 Gen McKee
8:55 To Secretary's office with Gen Edwards
10:00 Sec Whitney on phone following up on Sweeney.
1:00 p.m. Gen Norstad
1:22 Col Montgomery re Mr. Symington attending uniform meeting at
2 p.m. today.
1:32 Gen Whitten re delaying the uniform demonstration until 3:00 so
that Mr. Symington & Gen Spaatz can attend.
1:45 Gen Welch on phone--wants to know if he can bring Mr. Folmer
in to see Gen Van before uniform demonstration.
2:00 Gen Grow on phone re his testimony before Hall Board & Senate.
AF Pro etc. News item getting out.
2:10 To uniform demonstration.
4:00 To Gen Spaatz
4:45 To Mr. Symington

LOC-Manuscript Div Box 1 - Donkey
Vondenberg

30 September 1947

8:00 a.m. Arrived

8:30 Gen McKee on phone for permission to be at home today.

8:35 Gen Cann & Gen Stratemeyer

8:40 Gen LeMay

9:05 Gen Craigie

9:15 Col Michaelis on phone re quarters at Ft. Myer for AAF Officers. He said that Gen Eisenhower had made decision that upon relief of Air Officers from Ft Myer that they would not be replaced by other Air Officers.

9:35 Mr. Leo on phone re leak in press release. Gen Van said there was an article in NY Times and he didn't know how it got out but thought it must have come from the WD as most of the information pertained to the Army.

They also discussed the Congressional Mtg on Wednesday, 1 Oct. Gen Van will be away and Gen Spaatz will be at JCS which leaves Mr. Symington & Air Staff. Gen Van wanted to know if it couldn't be put off another day. Mr. Leo said he didn't think it mattered too much. Mr. Leo is going to talk with John Gerhardt and tell them with the short notice and previous commitments which have been made, they are unable to have Gen Spaatz etc there. Mr. Leo will tell WSS and take care of it. Gen Van thinks Mr. Symington can do it but does not think he will be too happy about it.

9:40 Colonel Swofford

10:00 To meeting of Selection Board

1:20 p.m. Returned

1:30 To lunch.

2:00 Returned

2:01 To Meeting Promotion Board

3:30 Returned.

3:35 To Meeting

4:00 To Mr. Symington

4:45 Returned

4:50 Gen Edwards on phone

30 September 1947 (Cont'd)

4:50 Gen Edwards

Gen Van told Gen Edwards that the Secretary felt Gen Van should be relieved of the Selection Board and that someone else should take his place. He suggested Louis Brereton.

Gen Van wanted to know how Gen Edwards was getting along with the Air AG on the orders. Gen Van wants the orders drawn up to show to the Secretary and said as soon as he had the press conference have the orders released. Gen Edwards said OK. Gen Van said the Air AG will have to have some commissions printed because all we have are Army. Gen Edwards will come down when he leaves for the day.

5:07 Gen Edwards

5:10 Gen LeMay

5:20 Gen Powers, Partridge & Weyland, Mr. Leo & Col Knuckols, Gen Boatner